Onna no Ko Play
ch. 2
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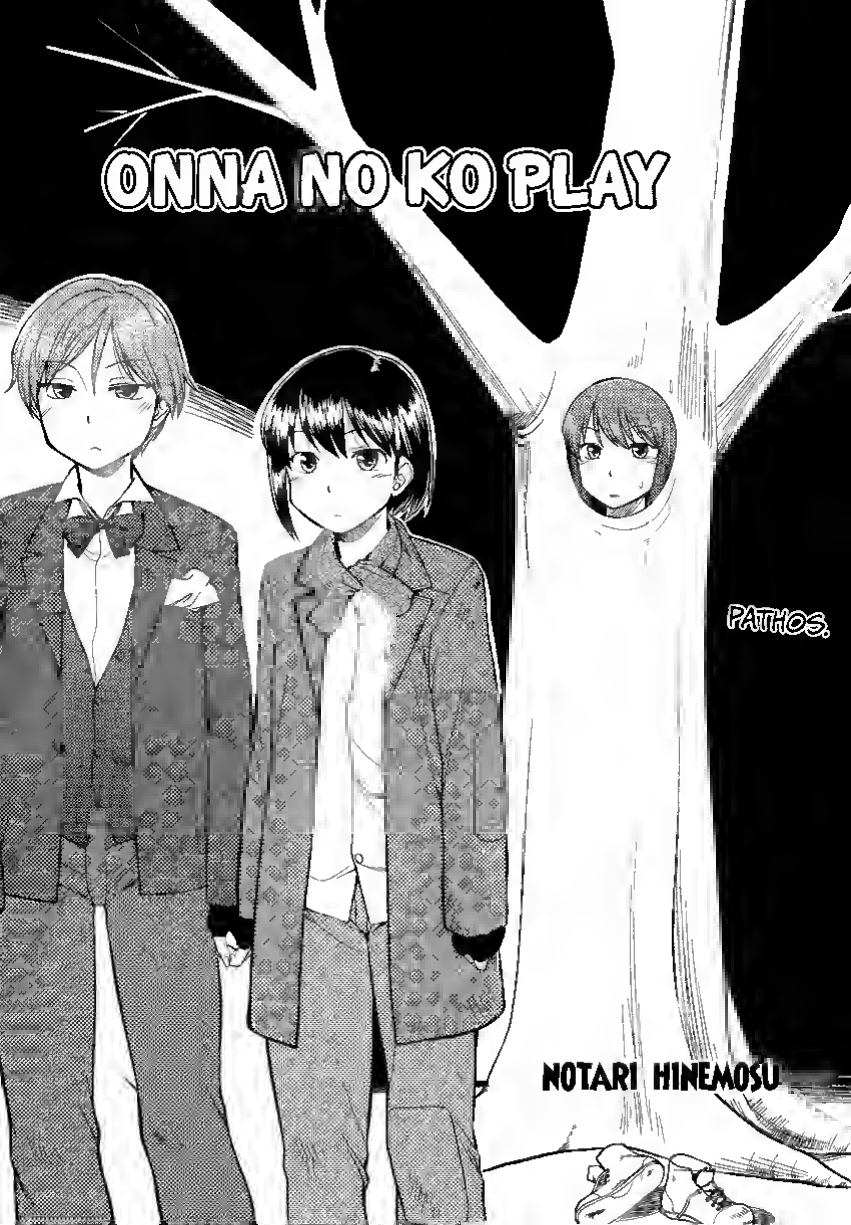

ONNA NO KO PLAY
PATHOS.
NOTARI HINEMOSU

CRAP, I GOT HERE LATE.
Drama club
YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE THE TIME TO CHANGE HERE TODAY
IN FACT, WHY DON'T YOU START CARRYING THE CLOTHES AROUND?
DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CHANGE EITHER HERE OR THERE
BUT I DON'T WANT TO PUT THIS IN MY BAG...
FINE, JUST HURRY UP SASAKI-KUN!
IF YOU DON'T HURRY, EVERYONE'S GONNA COME!

WHO ARE YOU?
Geh!
ガチャ
ガラ
ARE YOU A NEW MEMBER? BUT YOU WEREN'T HERE THE OTHER DAY
WAIT, HAVE WE MET SOMEWHERE BEFORE?
U... UM...
AH, UCCHAN, HELLO.
THIS IS SASAKI-KUN, A FIRST-YEAR WHO'S HELPING ME OUT WITH THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES WORK
ふぅ
AHH.. HE'S HELPING YOU OUT, TANUPON?
...UCCHAN, I TOLD YOU TO STOP CALLING ME THAT...

OKAY.
THIS STOREHOUSE ISN'T EXCLUSIVE TO THE DRAMA CLUB, SO BE CAREFUL.
GEEZ, BECAUSE YOU WERE GRUMBLING, YOU RAN INTO HIM WHEN YOU WERE IN SASAKI-KUN MODE.
AH—I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE JUST WORN THE GYM CLOTHES FROM THE START.

SAKI-CHAN, ARE YOU DONE?
!!
NOT YET, SO PLEASE DON'T OPEN IT!
GEEZ, HURRY UP
TANUMA-SAN, YOU AND UCHIYAMA-SAN ARE PRETTY CLOSE, HUH?
YEAH, WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER SINCE KINDERGARTEN
THE TRUTH IS, HE WANTED TO TRY WRITING A NOVEL,
BUT PREZ PULLED HIM IN SO THAT HE'D WRITE PLAYS FOR US
AHH...
COME TO THINK OF IT,
HE CALLED YOU TANUPON... RIGHT..?
IF YOU CALL ME THAT AGAIN, I'LL HIT YOU WITH A STAGE CRATE
...I UNDER-STAND

SORRY WE'RE LATE
Drama club
HEY, WE'RE FINALLY ALL HERE THEN.
THE TRUTH IS, I JUST HEARD THIS FROM OUR ADVISOR TODAY,
SHOW UP EVERY DAY EVEN IF I DON'T CALL YOU HERE. YOU'RE A MEMBER, AFTER ALL.
PREZ, YOU CALLED ME HERE ON PURPOSE, SO WHAT DO YOU WANT?

BUT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DRAMA PERFORMANCE PLANNED FOR THE MIDDLE OF JUNE
HAS BEEN MOVED TO MAY 20TH
EH...? HUH? WHAT DO YOU...
WELL, THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING IN COMMUNIATION,
SO THEY SAID IT'S ON MAY 20TH
MAY 20TH... WE ONLY HAVE ONE MONTH LEFT!
CAN WE GET EVERYTHING READY IN ONE MONTH?
WE'LL MANAGE SOMEHOW OR OTHER WITH THE REHEARSAL PERIOD
ACTUALLY, ALL WE CAN DO IS MANAGE SOMEHOW OR OTHER
THE PROBLEM IS...WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE SCRIPT,
YOU SEE

JUST LIKE I SAID BEFORE,
WE'LL BE ON STAGE FOR 30 MINUTES, SO MAKE IT ONE ACT, IF YOU CAN.
USE WORDS THAT GRADE SCHOOLERS WILL EASILY UNDERSTAND, AND IT'D BE EVEN BETTER IF YOU PUT IN SOME MORALS AND LESSONS
CAN YOU DO THAT IN ONE WEEK, UCHIYAMA-KUN?
UH...EVEN IF YOU ASK ME THAT...
HMM...SO I GUESS IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE, AFTER ALL.
IT'S SO SUDDEN, SO I GUESS NOTHING CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT. I GUESS ALL WE CAN DO IS REHASH WHAT WE HAVE
WE HAVE NEW MEMBERS, SO I WANTED TO HAVE A COMPLETE RESTART WITH A NEW PIECE,
BUT I CAN'T ASK THE IMPOSSIBLE.
.....
AH.. THIS IS AGITATING HIM..

WILL IT REALLY BE OKAY? EVEN ONE WEEK IS CUTTING IT CLOSE
AHH, HE TOOK THE BAIT...
ニヤニヤ
...FINE, I'LL WRITE IT.
OKAY! THEN IT'S SETTLED!
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT HOW TO DO IT THAT WAY, AT LEAST...
I'LL...MAKE IT WORK SOMEHOW
Ahh eee ll uu! E.oaohhh!
WELL THEN, AFTER WE GET CHANGED, LET'S PRACTICE RIGHT AWAY
US PERFORMERS WILL HAVE TO WORK HARD TO MATCH UP WITH IT

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT WE'RE DONE PLAYING SPORTS, NOW IT'S TURNED INTO A RAKUGO RESEARCH CLUB.
Jugemu jugemu gokou no surikire kaijari surigyo no
Hatopoppo! Horohoro! Hahifueho!
YOU'LL BE DOING MORE THINGS AKIN TO A DRAMA CLUB FROM NOW ON
I'M HERE TO GIVE YOU ALL THIS
WELL THEN, LIE DOWN EVERYONE
HUH !?
YEAH, STARTING TODAY YOU'LL BE PRACTICING WITH TEXT.
THIS IS.. A SCRIPT?

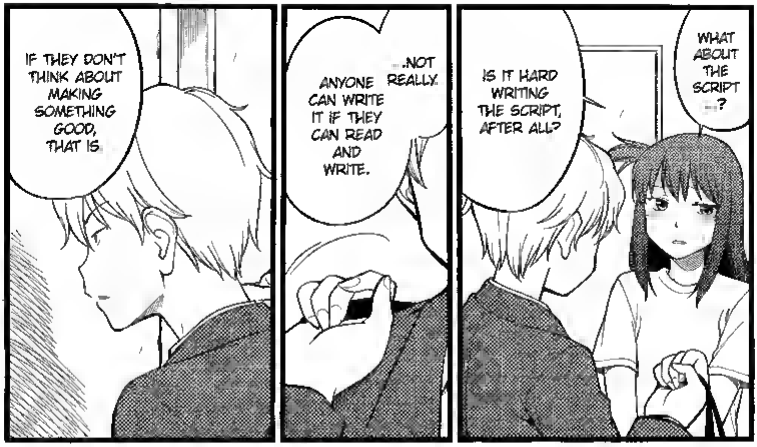
AHH...
THE CONCRETE IS SO NICE AND COOL..
LYING DOWN LIKE THIS ON THE ROOF
IS KIND OF MAKING ME SLEEPY...
WAIT, WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO BE RELAXING!
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, RIGHT!?
IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY.
READ THE SCRIPT WHILE LYING DOWN.
JUST LIKE... THIS!?

"EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT, YOU GET GOOD GRADES, MIHO-CHAN."
NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE.
AHH, WELL,
SO-SO... I GUESS.
UMM...
"HOW DID YOUR MIDTERMS GO?"
BY THE WAY, SENSEI,
WHAT'S THE POINT OF LYING DOWN AND READING A SCRIPT?
Really?
SHE'S LIKE A MOM READING A PICTURE BOOK TO HER CHILD WHILE LYING IN BED TOGETHER.
BUT PEOPLE RELAX THE MOST WHEN THEY'RE LYING DOWN, RIGHT?
ANYTHING WILL WORK IF YOU MAKE A SITUATION WHERE YOU CAN LET YOUR HAIR DOWN,
YOUR VOICE GETS STIFF WHEN YOU'RE NERVOUS, SO IT'S A WAY TO LET THAT GO SO YOU CAN NATURALLY SPEAK

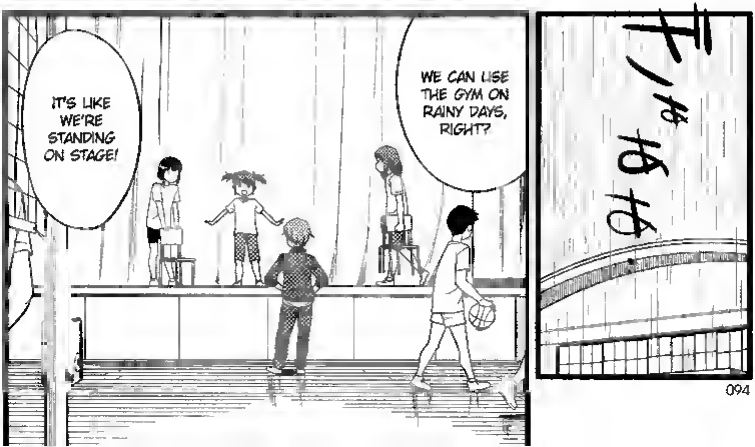
BUT WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, YOU CAN FALL BACK ON THAT, RIGHT?
IT'D BE A PROBLEM IF THE ENTIRE PERFORMANCE WAS IN A NEUTRAL STATE,
HMM, I WONDER.
THEN LYING DOWN UP ON STAGE
Would make it easy to see!
HERE,
TRY TAGGING THE LINES ON THE END OF AN ACTUAL CATALOG LISTING.
FIRST OF ALL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY TO SAY IT WELL.
TRY SAYING IT LIKE YOU'RE READING A SALES CATALOG.
YOU'RE STILL STIFF, SAKI-CHAN
...WAIT, THIS IS AN UNDERWEAR CATALOG!
ISN'T IT GOOD THAT IT'S SOMETHING GIRLY?
UM...
HOW DID YOUR MIDTERMS GO WITH ELEGANT SATIN CLIPS IN A FLOWER PATTERN WITH LACE?

THEN NEXT UP IS SHIINA-CHAN AND TAKIGUCHI-CHAN.
TRY ACTING IT OUT WHILE SITTING IN THE CHAIRS.
HEY, HEY! HOW DID YOUR TESTS GO?
AHH, WELL,
SO-SO... I GUESS.
EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT, YOU GET GOOD GRADES, MIHO-CHAN...
NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE!
LIKE I THOUGHT, THOSE TWO ARE SMOOTH
.....
YOU DIDN'T EXHIBIT THE CHARACTERS OR SITUATION,
BUT IT WAS A PRETTY INTERSTING INTERPRETATION. GOOD JOB
.....
WITH A GENTLE AND SOFT LACE YOU'VE NEVER WORN BEFORE THAT MAKES YOU FORGET YOU'RE WEARING IT, REALLY! YOU'RE GONNA BE A VETERINARIAN?

I DON'T THINK I'LL IMPROVE RIGHT AWAY IN ONLY A WEEK OR SO.
BUT WHAT AM I GONNA DO IF I END UP GOING ON STAGE LIKE THIS...?
AH... UCHI-YAMA-SAN.
HELLO...
OH, HELLO.
IS THE ACTING PRACTICE GOING WELL?
UMM... WELL I'M NOT SURE...
.....


IF THEY DON'T THINK ABOUT MAKING SOMETHING GOOD, THAT IS.
...NOT REALLY. ANYONE CAN WRITE IT IF THEY CAN READ AND WRITE.
IS IT HARD WRITING THE SCRIPT, AFTER ALL?
WHAT ABOUT THE SCRIPT...?

.....


IT'S LIKE WE'RE STANDING ON STAGE!
WE CAN USE THE GYM ON RAINY DAYS, RIGHT?
ザザザ

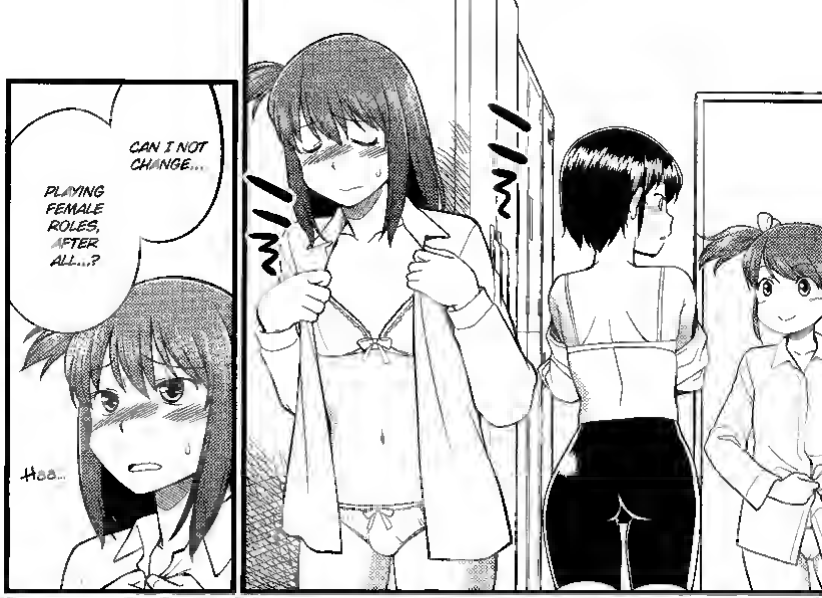
THEN LET'S TRY AN ACTIVE SKIT LIKE WHAT YOU'D DO ON STAGE.
THE SETUP IS THAT YOU'RE CHATTING AROUND THE TABLE.
YOU'RE FREE TO ACT OUT YOUR CHARACTER.
AND THEN SAKI-CHAN, YOUR LINE IS YOUR CHANCE TO EXIT STAGE LEFT,
QUICKLY AND WITHOUT STOPPING WHILE SAYING YOUR LINE.
YOU GO OFF STAGE TO DRAW THE AUDIENCE'S ATTENTION TO THE ONE WHO LEFT.
THE AUDIENCE'S ATTENTION...

AH... UMM,
DID HE THROW AN ASHTRAY OR SOMETHING?
BUT AT THAT TIME, TARANTINO SAID IT WASN'T RIGHT.
THEN LET'S START.
GO!
ARE THERE PEOPLE LIKE THAT?
YEAH! I'M TELLING YOU ABOUT TARANTINO RIGHT NOW!
HE DIDN'T THROW THAT.
THEN DID HE THROW A STAGE CRATE?
HE DIDN'T THROW ANYTHING. THEY WEREN'T DOING SOME STAGE PRODUCTION, EITHER.
...I SEE
ISN'T THAT A NICE STORY?
SO THEN AFTER HE SAID, "DO IT OVER AGAIN," WITH ALL THE STAFF THERE,
ALL OF THEM SAID TOGETHER,
"BECAUSE WE LOVE MOVIES!"

HM? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
YEAH.
AHH. WELL, SURE.
NOW!
I'M GOING TO GET A DRINK.
YOU JUST HAD SOMETHING BEFORE!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'M THIRSTY.
TOTE
TOTE
TOTE
.....

ALL RIGHT,
COME BACK, SAKI-CHAN.
..DID I GET THE TIMING RIGHT..?
I SEE... I'M SORRY.
YOU WALKED A LITTLE TOO FAST,
AND YOU LEFT BEFORE YOU FINISHED YOUR LINE.
THEN YOU SIT THIS ONE OUT SAKI-CHAN, AND WE'LL EXCHANGE THE ROLES.
YES...
ALSO, YOUR VOICE IS STIFF.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN UP ON A STAGE UP TO NOW, SO ARE YOU NERVOUS?

TAKE A MORE SOLID STANCE WITH THE TIMING WHEN YOU EXIT,
SO YOU CAN COMPACT THE FIRST HALF AND OVERLAP THE LINES
HEY FIRST-YEAR! WHAT ARE YOU TAKING IT EASY FOR!?
I'M SORRY!
OH! IT'S THE DRAMA CLUB
GEH! WHY IS YAMAZAKI HERE!?
I JUST STOOD THERE...
BUT THINKING ABOUT IT NOW, PREZ'S ACTING IS WHAT ATTRACTED PEOPLE.
YAMAZAKI SAW ME WHEN WE WERE RECRUITING NEW STUDENTS.


CAN I NOT CHANGE...
PLAYING FEMALE ROLES, AFTER ALL...?
Haa...

AH, I MET HIM IN THE CLUB ROOM BEFORE THE START OF CLUB ACTIVITIES
DID HE TELL YOU ANYTHING ABOUT THE SCRIPT? LIKE HE HAD FINISHED IT OR WAS STILL WORKING ON IT

GOOD WORK TODAY
HAVE ANY OF YOU SEEN UCHIYAMA-KUN TODAY?
ガチャ...

NO... HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING LIKE THAT...
THAT BAS-TARD...

COME TO THINK OF IT, IT'S BEEN ONE WEEK TODAY.
BUT WELL, A ONE WEEK DEADLINE WAS A LITTLE TIGHT FROM THE START.
NEVERTHELESS, TANUMA-CHAN,
LEAVING ASIDE THE REHEARSAL, IT'D BE BAD IF WE DON'T START ON THE STAGE SETS AND COSTUMES, RIGHT?
I'M USED TO A TIGHT SCHEDULE, BECAUSE OF YOUR UNREASONABLE BEHAVIOR.
...NOW YOU TELL ME.
WELL, THERE'S THE WEEKEND, SO I GUESS I'LL WAIT BECAUSE OF LOST TIME.
UCHI-YAMA! ARE YOU HERE!?
HA!!

DAMN... HE DIDN'T RUN AWAY, RIGHT?
IT SEEMS LIKE HE WAS HERE DURING CLASS, BUT HE HASN'T COME HERE.
AH, NO... I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM
IT'S NO GOOD. HE'S NOT ANSWERING...
I'LL SWING BY HIS PLACE ON THE WAY HOME TODAY.
Ring Ring
Ring Ring
Ring Ring
Ring Ring
Ring Ring
Haa...
I HAVE NO CHOICE. I GUESS I'LL WAIT JUST ONE MORE DAY...

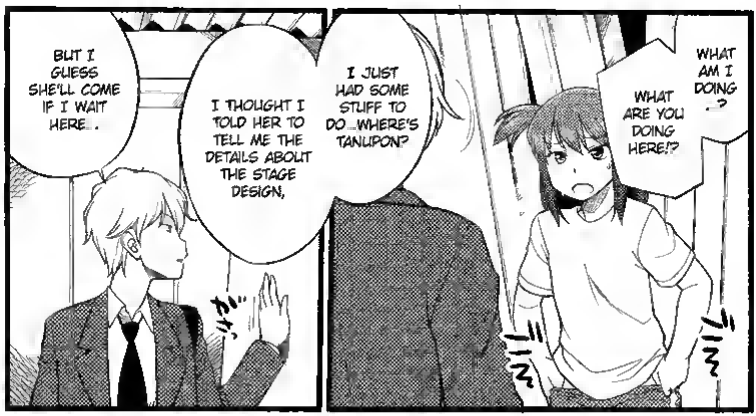
. DAMN IT, THAT BASTARD
WE COULD DEAL WITH IT IF HE HAD JUST TOLD ME HE COULDN'T DO IT...
I ASKED THEM TO TELL HIM TO CONTACT ME WHEN HE GOT HOME, BUT..
I WENT TO HIS HOUSE YESTERDAY, BUT HE WASN'T THERE
YOU KNOW, WE ONLY HAVE FOUR PERFORM-ERS
IF WE HAVE TAROU, THE DOG, THE MONKEY AND THE PHEASANT.
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO ABOUT THE OGRE?
SINCE IT'S FOR GRADE SCHOOLERS, WOULD IT ALSO BE IMPOSSIBLE TO WRITE A STORY WITH A FAIRY TALE OR LEGEND AS A THEME?
LIKE MOMO-TAROU OR CINERD-ELLA
AND NOW WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO PREPARE A NEW SCRIPT.
WE CAN'T DO THAT.
THEN LET'S DO THIS FOR THE OGRE.

AH,
AN EMAIL FROM UCCHAN
LET ME SEE THAT!
AH!
WELL..?
"WHAT ABOUT THE STAGE EQUIPMENT... AND THE COSTUMES..?"
WHAT ABOUT THE SCRIPT!!!?
HEY! MY PHONE!
BUT... IF HE'S TALKING ABOUT THE STAGE DESIGN, DOESN'T THAT MEAN HE'S COMPLETED THE SCRIPT TO A CERTAIN EXTENT?
Haa
Fuuu...
THAT BAS-TARD!
I'M WAITING JUST ONE MORE DAY!!

EVEN THOUGH I SAID JUST ONE MORE DAY, HE'S SKIPPED SCHOOL FOR TWO DAYS!!
HEY PREZ! DON'T SHAKE IT!
HAA... SERIOUSLY, WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO...?
THERE HE IS!!
THAT BASTARD'S SCREWING AROUND WITH US!!

UWAAAA!!

...UM,
YAMADA... RIGHT? WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER HERE?


WHAT AM I DOING...?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
I JUST HAD SOME STUFF TO DO...WHERE'S TANUPON?
I THOUGHT I TOLD HER TO TELL ME THE DETAILS ABOUT THE STAGE DESIGN,
BUT I GUESS SHE'LL COME IF I WAIT HERE...

SORRY, BUT DON'T TELL PREZ YOU SAW ME.
.....
UCHIYAMA-SAN, WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AROUND SO MUCH?
IF YOU'RE NOT DONE, THEN YOU SHOULD TELL HER YOU'RE NOT...
I MEAN,
YOU SAID WRITING A SCRIPT WASN'T THAT HARD, RIGHT!?
I HAVE IT DONE...AND THAT'S WHY I'M STUCK.
...HUH?

HUH..? WAIT A SECOND!? THEN WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AROUND!?
YOU'RE DONE WITH THE SCRIPT, RIGHT!?
AND I EVEN BROUGHT THE COMPLETED SCRIPT TODAY.
I KNOW THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME UNTIL THE DAY OF THE PERFOR-MANCE,
IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS JUST TALKING BIG
.....
WELL... THAT'S BECAUSE I'M NOT OKAY WITH IT
HUH?
I WAS THINKING ALL THROUGHOUT CLASS,
THAT I COULDN'T ACCEPT THE LAST DEVELOPMENT NO MATTER WHAT.
PREZ MIGHT SAY IT'S OKAY LIKE THIS,
SO IT HAS TO BE SOMETHING I CAN ACCEPT..

WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WHEN IT COMES TO A PERFORMANCE YOU CAN'T ACCEPT.
IF I SAID WE SHOULD JUST GO WITH THIS,
WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO ACCEPT IT?
IT'S MAKE OR BREAK WHEN YOU'RE ON THE STAGE,
BUT YOU'D WANT TO REHEARSE UNTIL YOU CAN GIVE A PERFORMANCE YOU CAN ACCEPT, RIGHT?
BUT...
WITH YOU LATE AND RUNNING AROUND, ISN'T IT YOUR FAULT THAT WE DON'T HAVE AS MUCH TIME TO PRACTICE?
...WELL, YOU HAVE A POINT THERE...

I FOUND YOU!!
AH!!
JUST SHOW ME HOW MUCH YOU'VE WRITTEN!!
I'M NOT GONNA GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO CALL A LAWYER OR TO REMAIN SILENT!
THE CRIMINAL HAS BEEN CAPTURED!
HM?

I SEE...
HMM...
NO! THAT'S NOT FINISHED YET...
HUH? YOU'VE WRITTEN ALL THE WAY TO THE END
AH, OKAY!
TANUMA-CHAN,
PRINT OUT A COPY OF THIS FOR EACH MEMBER RIGHT AWAY.
WE'LL HAVE TO TRIM IT A BIT...BUT WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE ABLE TO WORK WITH THIS SOMEHOW OR OTHER.
.....
OKAY!
WE ONLY HAVE TWO WEEKS LEFT, SO QUICKLY MEMORIZE THE SCRIPT SO WE CAN REHEARSE IMMEDI-ATELY

AND SO OVER THE NEXT TWO WEEKS,
WE GAVE UP OUR WEEKENDS, ADDED ON DRESS REHEARSALS,
AND PREPARED FOR THE DAY OF THE PERFOR-MANCE.
LET'S GO THROUGH ONE LAST RUN-THROUGH

!!!
THEN SAKI-CHAN, CHECK THE TAPE FOR YOUR STAGE POSITION.
OKAY!
PREZ...
PLEASE READ THIS.
HUH .? WHAT'S THIS?
WE'RE GOING THROUGH OUR FINAL RUN-THROUGH, SO WE CAN LEAVE THIS UNTIL LATER, RIGHT?
NO... PLEASE READ IT NOW.
IT'S A REWRITE FOR THE LAST PART OF THE SCRIPT.
HUH !?

...
...EVEN THOUGH TOMORROW'S THE PERFORMANCE, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
GUYS!
WE'RE REVISING THE LAST PART OF THE SCRIPT!!
...ARE YOU A MORON!?
MAKE THIS WORK WITH THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WE HAVE, OKAY?
!!
REMEMORIZE THE LAST SCENE'S LINES STARTING NOW!
TO BE CONTINUED